

IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicants respectfully request permission to amend the drawings as indicated in red on the copy of the drawings attached hereto. Specifically, Applicant requests the following changes to the figures:

In Fig. 2, Box 60, add the legend --MOTOR DRIVE--.

Attachment: Annotated Sheet

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-11 remain in this application as amended herein, and claims 12 and 13 are added. Accordingly, claims 1-13 are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to. An annotated drawing sheet is submitted with the present Amendment in which Fig. 2 is amended to correct the informality.

Claims 3-6 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 3, 4, and 6 have been amended to correct same.

Turning now to the art rejections, claims 1, 2 and 4-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by McKivergan (U.S. Patent No. 6,329,953), and claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McKivergan. Applicants submit that the claims are patentably distinguishable over the relied on reference.

As amended herein, claim 1 recites:

means for pivoting the network of probes about a point located in the plane formed by the network of probes or about a point located in the plane parallel to the plane formed by the network of probes to vary an angle formed between the given one of the network of probes and the main axis of the support in a manner that provides a total number of measurements in the plurality of measurements that is greater than a total number of probes in the network of probes. (Emphasis added.)

The relied on sections of McKivergan do not disclose or suggest pivoting a network of probes, and the relied on sections of McKivergan do not disclose or suggest varying an angle formed between a given one of a network of probes and a main axis of a support in a manner that provides a total number of measurements in a plurality of measurements that is greater than a total number of probes in the network of probes.

Rather, McKivergan describes rotating a test pedestal over a range of elevation and azimuth angles. (See col.6

11.5-6.) The relied on sections of the reference are not at all concerned with rotating the probe array. Hence, the relied on sections of McKivergan neither disclose nor suggest pivoting a network of probes.

Moreover, McKivergan teaches that the test pedestal is rotated in a step-wise manner. The relied on sections of the patent do not contemplate rotating in a manner that provides a total number of measurements that is greater than a total number of probes in the probe array.

It follows, for at least the above reasons, that the relied on sections of McKivergan do not disclose or suggest the combination defined in claim 1 and therefore do not anticipate the claim.

Claims 2-11 each depend from claim 1. Therefore, each of claims 2-11 is distinguishable over the relied on sections of McKivergan for at least the same reasons.

Regarding claim 3, the relied on sections of McKivergan do not disclose or suggest moving a network of probes in relation to the ground.

As to claim 4, the relied on sections of McKivergan neither disclose nor suggest allowing an angle formed between a given one of a network of probes and a main axis of a support to vary between successive ones of a plurality of measurements by less than an angular pitch of the network of probes.

Regarding claim 5, the relied on sections of McKivergan do not disclose or suggest allowing an angle formed between a given one of a network of probes and a main axis of a support to vary between successive ones of a plurality of measurements by a fraction of an angular pitch of the network of probes.

As to claim 6, the relied on sections of McKivergan neither disclose nor suggest allowing an angle formed between a given one of a network of probes and a main axis of a support to

vary between successive ones of a plurality of measurements by more than the angular pitch of the network of probes.

Concerning claims 8 and 11, the relied on sections of McKivergan do not disclose or suggest displacing the test object relative to the network of probes in a direction perpendicular to the plane formed by the network of probes.

Applicants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of the Examiner's objections and the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a).

New claim 12 recites features similar to those set out in claims 1, 4, and 5, and new claim 13 recites features similar to those set out in claims 1 and 3. Therefore, each of new claims 12 and 13 is distinguishable over the relied on sections of McKivergan for at least the same reasons and is similarly supported.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

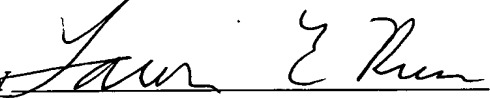
Application No.: 10/568,378

Docket No.: REGIM 3.3-080

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: March 27, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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